

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8776

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1587

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, TW, US

SUBJECT: AP REPORT OF U.S. MILITARY REDUCTIONS ON TAIWAN

1. FOLLOWING AP REPORT APPEARED IN AFTERNOON ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS. IT DID NOT APPEAR IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS.
2. QUOTE: FORD ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAY PRESIDENT FORD GAVE A SECRET PLEDGE TO THE "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA" TO CUT THE U.S. MILITARY FORCE ON TAIWAN FROM ABOUT 2200 TO ABOUT 1100 IN THE NEXT YEAR, THE BOSTON GLOBE REPORTED IN THURSDAY'S EDITIONS.
3. THE GLOBE, ATTRIBUTING ITS INFORMATION TO "WELL PLACED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS," REPORTED FORD MADE THE PLEDGE TO "VICE PREMIER" TENG HSIAO-PING DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MAINLAND CHINA LAST DECEMBER.
4. THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE U.S. MILITARY FORCE ON TAIWAN WAS REDUCED FROM 8600 TO ABOUT 2200 SINCE THEN-PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON VISITED CHINA FOUR YEARS AGO.

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5. A COMMUNIQUE FROM SHANGHAI AT THE END OF NIXON'S

VISIT PROMISED A PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION IN AMERICAN FORCES ON TAIWAN "AS TENSION IN THE AREA DIMINISHED."

6. THE COMMUNIQUE ACKNOWLEDGED TAIWAN WAS PART OF CHINA AND SAID ITS POLITICAL SITUATION SHOULD BE SETTLED BY THE CHINESE.

7. THE GLOBE IN ITS REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON BUREAU, SAID OFFICIALS WOULD NOT DETAIL WHAT FUNCTIONS WOULD BE REDUCED BY THE CUT IN AMERICAN FORCES.

8. IT SAID APPROXIMATELY 1000 AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AT SHULINKOU AIR BASE ARE INVOLVED IN EAVESDROPPING AND CODE-BREAKING ATTEMPTS.

9. THREE OTHER MILITARY FUNCTIONS BY THE U.S. ON TAIWAN WERE GIVEN AS:

--MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY GROUP HELPING TO TRAIN CHINESE NATIONALIST MILITARY PERSONNEL IN USE AND MAINTENANCE OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT.

--GROUP WORKING WITH THE TAIWAN DEFENSE COMMAND ON JOINT CONTINGENCY PLANS IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK FROM THE MAINLAND.

--GROUP PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING A SMALL TACTICAL NUCLEAR AIR FORCE IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR FAR EASTERN WAR. END QUOTE.
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